

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3130

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2008

SAFETY AND SECURITY OF FOREIGN TOURISTS

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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the Travel and Tourism Competitive Report, 2008 released world-wide on March, 4, 2008 as appeared in Hindustan Times dated March 7, 2008;

(b) if so, the facts given in this report in regard to our country;

(c) the response of the Government on the facts; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the confidence of foreign tourists in regard to visit our country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c): On the basis of 71 indicators grouped into 14 broad indicators under three categories relating to Travel & Tourism (T&T) Industry namely, regulatory framework, business environment & infrastructure, and human, cultural & natural resources, the report of World Economic Forum (WEF) has given the values of T&T competitiveness index as well as the ranks for 130 countries of the World including India. As per this report, the rank of India in 2008 is 65 as it was in 2007.

Results of 2008 report are not comparable with 2007 report because out of 71 indicators in 2008 only 46 were included in 2007 report. Further, in the 2008 report, hard data have been used only for 42 indicators out of 71 and for others the results of executive opinion survey conducted by WEF have been used.

(d): "Public Order" and "Police" are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, the prevention of crime, including crimes against tourists, is the primary responsibility of State Governments/ Union Territories. The Ministry of Tourism recently discussed the issue of safety and security of tourists, amongst other issues, with Secretaries of Tourism of States/ Union Territories, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence. It was emphasized that ensuring the safety and security of tourists is of paramount importance and State Governments/ Union Territories must ensure the same. Guidelines for augmenting tourist security measures have been circulated to all State Governments/ Union Territories.